

# NEWS RELEASE

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**ATTENTION: NEWS/EDUCATION EDITORS**

January 7, 2013

## **A WARM WELCOME TO THE 75 FULBRIGHT U.S. ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANTS**



*Ambassador Jones with the 75 Fulbright English Teaching Assistants*

The U.S. Embassy is pleased to welcome this year's Fulbright English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) to Malaysia. The latest group of 75 Fulbright ETAs just arrived to begin their 10-month assignments at schools across Terengganu, Johor, Pahang, and Perak. Based on its tremendous success, the ETA program has been expanded to Perak and the number of ETAs has increased from 50 to 75. The program is administered jointly by the Malaysian-American Commission on Educational Exchange (MACEE) and the Malaysian Ministry of Education.

Fulbright English Teaching Assistance are graduates of leading universities throughout the United States. They will be assigned to primary and secondary schools in every district of the states of Terengganu, Pahang, Johor, and Perak. Each ETA will have direct, sustained contact with hundreds of students in their schools. In addition, the U.S. provides technical support through visits by English language specialists from the U.S. who help train teachers and advise on curriculum. They will bring with them the latest teaching materials, provided free of charge by the U.S. Department of State.

U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia, Paul W. Jones said, "I'm proud to welcome 75 talented young Americans who will dedicate themselves to helping teach English in schools throughout Terengganu, Johor, Pahang and Perak. This successful, growing program is a direct result of President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak's commitment to expand people-to-people exchanges and strengthen educational ties. This year's expansion of our English teaching partnership coincides with the 50th anniversary

of Fulbright educational exchanges in Malaysia, which has brought Malaysians and Americans together across cultural and linguistic barriers.”

The ETA program is intended to enrich and enhance English instruction in primary and secondary schools by providing American native speakers who strengthen English language education as well as mutual understanding. ETAs organize extra-curricular clubs and activities conducted in English while also gaining a deep understanding of Malaysian culture by living and working in towns and cities throughout Terengganu, Johor, Pahang, and Perak. The objective of this program is to fulfill the Fulbright program goal of increasing mutual understanding between Americans and other peoples of the world in order to foster world peace.

For more information contact MACEE, at <http://www.macee.org.my/>